

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

January 7, 2003

7:30 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

3. Presentation to Jay Taylor in recognition of his many years of service to the citizens of Manchester.

Mayor Baines requested Mr. Taylor approach the podium reading into the record the following proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas Jay Taylor is retiring this year after devoting four decades to the people of Manchester; and
- Whereas During his time as an employee of the Manchester Housing Authority and as head of the Manchester Economic Development Office, he has established a reputation for competence and effectiveness achieved by few; and
- Whereas The map of Manchester is dotted with monuments to his hard work: businesses that located in the Queen City because of Jay’s determination to create a business friendly atmosphere; and
- Whereas A true gentleman, Jay’s reputation for effectiveness is surpassed only by his reputation for graciousness; and
- Whereas The key to the city that he will receive tonight is a token of the appreciation of a grateful city for a job well done,

I, Robert A. Baines, by virtue of the authority vested in me as MAYOR of MANCHESTER, do hereby proclaim today to be

JAY TAYLOR DAY in MANCHESTER

Mayor Baines stated it’s also an honor for me to follow up with a Key to the City and for those of you who have seen me present this on numerous occasions, first thing I tell people it doesn’t open a thing, but what it really is a symbol and in Jay’s case in particular I tell people it’s a symbol of the doors of opportunity that have been opened up and when you think about

the comments I've made earlier and the comments that Ray Pinard as Chairman of the MDC has made and those who have worked with Jay know that without his hard work and diligence Manchester would not be the strong and viable community it is today. So, it's with that spirit that this Key to the City is presented in honor of four decades of exemplary service to the citizens of Manchester. Again, congratulations, Jay.

Mr. Taylor stated first of all I want to tell you all that I took the scissors to all of my ties, that's why I'm not dressed up tonight. The second thing is I wanted to tell you a little about a conversation I had with former Alderman Bill Cashin about 15 months ago. He and I were talking and he said Jay I'm not running for reelection and I'm going to retire from the City of Manchester and if you had any brains you'd be right behind me. So, Bill, here I am. Secondly, I'd just like to thank you, Mayor, for your continued support of the economic development program and myself, in particular, I would like to thank this Board for their support and previous Boards and I'd like to put in a plug at this point and say that I hope your support is continuous because we have a lot of things to work on yet and we need a lot of work to do. So, thank you very much.

Mayor Baines stated I was asked by Alderman Thibault for a point of personal privilege, so I will offer it at this time.

Alderman Thibault stated I just felt a little bit left out, I think, to some extent when someone came up a few minutes ago namely Skip Ashooh to talk about the surcharge I proposed about three years ago on this Board. Your Honor, I think if everybody takes the time to look at where this thing came from and where it should have gone, I believe that we were deceived, your Honor. And, I say that because certainly I was deceived and maybe it was by my own fault that I did not read the final contract to the tune that I should have read it because when the motion was made here on this Board, seconded by former Alderman Girard, your Honor. It was not whether SMG agreed with it or not, it was a motion that was made and seconded that a dollar surcharge should be imposed and this is long before SMG ever got into this picture...we were talking, at that point, from the other group (whose name I forget now)...the point is this, I ran and I told the people of my area that I supported the dollar surcharge because if ever and hopefully it never happens that this arena does not come through with what it should have come through that dollar surcharge which would have been in the bank, if you will to some extent, how they applied it or where they put it did not matter to me providing it was there to take care of any shortfall that could happen in the future and we've already seen that to some extent...there was a parking shortfall, there were a few other things that were not exactly up to par. So, to some extent, your Honor, I still believe that I certainly was deceived and I believe the people of my ward were deceived in saying that this dollar surcharge that I proposed I believe about three years ago that it did not go through and they keep telling me about there's all kinds of problems about why that can't be instituted. Your Honor, I've been here too long to be told these types of things. I've seen this City go

through ups and downs of any problem that could happen with any project that this City has ever approached. I'm sure there would have been a way or certainly there would have been a way for us to sit down and talk about it and discuss it. This has not been done and I will never stop fighting for this because I believe that this is something that this City should go after. It is something to protect this City from now and in the future on that civic center and I was probably one of the biggest fighters for the civic center. Thank you.

Mayor Baines stated I believe at the last meeting it was referred back to the Civic Center Committee for discussion and that discussion will take place.

4. Presentation by Dave Smith, MTA Executive Director, regarding bus route changes.

Mr. Smith stated I am the Executive Director of the Manchester Transit Authority. Seated to my right is John Trisciani, Chairman of the MTA and to my left is David Jesperson, Chairman of our Customer Service Committee newly formed recently. Also, in the audience are Commissioners Gene Boisvert and Joe Deselle who are with us tonight as well. Our purpose tonight is to give you a brief overview of some route changes that we intend to make on January 27th. The last route changes to our service were made in the year 2000 and some of those changes were problematic at the time...some of that resulted from lack of adequate announcement and adequate promotion and we want to be here tonight to make sure that our service is well-presented to you. Back in October, Commissioner Jesperson initiated a Customer Service Committee, which is made up of a number of employees including drivers, representatives from the union and members of management to look at routes and schedules and our customer service practices. We began by doing a survey of all of our bus operators for initial ideas towards route and service changes that would benefit the public and result in an improvement of service. At that time, we received a great deal of input from a large number of operators. When the committee met we sorted through that information and determined that there were both some long-range issues that needed to be addressed with extensive public input, surveys of passengers and so forth and some that we felt that could be implemented within the short term that would not result in significant changes to our schedules or our level of service, but could result in improvements of service to our riding public and so we intend to make those changes January 27th and are here tonight to present those changes to you. Our first change is to modify our Goffs Falls, our Route 3 Goffs Falls route to extend it farther south on Brown Avenue and to serve the Airport. We have a number of requests for service to the Airport, we fall short of serving the Airport at this time and feel that within the current schedule we can extend to the Airport and provide hourly service to the terminal. There are three route modifications that would be made to the Goffs Falls. We currently have a loop that deviates from Elm Street over to Southern NH Services that's not very productive but yet we can serve Southern NH Services with another route modification we propose. The service to Brown Industrial Park is not effective and is

recommended that we go directly south on Brown Avenue and then finally we have virtually no ridership at Blue Cross Blue Shield where the service currently terminates. It was the strong recommendation of our staff that we use the time saved by straightening the route by going directly to the Airport terminal and provide hourly service. The service would leave Downtown at twenty-five after the hour from 5:25 AM to 5:25 PM and leave the Airport terminal at fifty after the hour. We also intend to modify our Route 8, our South Willow route. The South Willow route was added in the year 2000 and has become a relatively successful route, it carries 25,000 to 26,000 passengers annually and is one of our more effective routes. The service is duplicated on South Elm Street by two other routes and we would like to divert the route so that it serves both Kalivas and O'Malley towers which are not currently served. Residents of those towers now have to walk to Elm Street to receive service. By deviating the route off of Elm Street where it does duplicate other routes and moving it over to Union Street (south bound) and Pine Street (north bound) we're able to preserve service to Southern NH Services and as well provide new service to Kalivas and O'Malley towers both directly to the mall and South Willow Street and to Downtown.

Finally, we have two problems on our Route 4 (Page Street/Elliot Hospital) route. The first is deviation that was implemented in the year 2000 to go south from Auburn Street which the route formerly went east and west on Auburn Street and now diverts from Auburn Street and goes down to Valley Street to serve Vista Foods. This duplicates services that's provided currently by our Valley (west) service and all of our riders to Vista Foods ride only the Valley route rather than the Page route. There are two (we feel) unsafe turns as well on that down on Valley Street. In turning off of Lincoln onto Valley and from Valley onto Wilson contend with traffic crossing and left turns and do cause traffic delays and we feel it's a safety problem. By straightening the route in that area we feel that we have generated enough time in the route to make a modification in the east end. Currently, the route makes a large loop on Mammoth Road, Candia Road, Page Street and Hanover Street to serve the East Side Plaza. It then continues on Hanover and completes the loop. The result of this is that it does not provide very good service to those who live on the loop and want to shop at East Side Plaza because if they want to go to the shopping center it's very easy to go, but to go home they must ride Downtown and then transfer back out. What we intend to do by using the time that we save in the current deviation (Valley Street) is to have that route return via Hanover/Page/Candia Road and Mammoth so that people in the east side neighborhood going to East Side Plaza have the opportunity to return home after shopping. Finally, we intend to make some minor changes to our Routes 9 (DW Highway & River Road) routes. These involve minor change to the way that we operate through the Northside Plaza, a change to straighten it out on River Road where it currently deviates to serve Notre Dame College which is no longer in business and also would move our current Library loop which deviates from Elm Street from that route over to our Veteran's Hospital route which has more time to accommodate it. Those are the short term improvements we intend to make. Our study continues because we also have identified existing problems with other routes that will take more study, more public input, passenger counts and public surveys. We intend to

complete that work by April and to implement those changes in May. Board members and I are available for any questions, if you have them.

Alderman Gatsas in reference to the Union and Pine Street going to the mall asked is there a reason why you wouldn't take those on Chestnut Street to make it a little easier for those seniors at the Kalivas High Rise to get access to the buses? I heard you say that that is the reason why you alternated routes. I would think that the possibility of moving them to Chestnut Street (pick-up and drop off) is going to get more utilization from them because I don't know how many of those people are going to walk to Union Street to be picked up.

Commissioner Jespersen stated it would go between the two high rises on Spruce Street.

Alderman Gatsas stated then come back down Lake Avenue on the return route.

Commissioner Jespersen replied right...come down Pine Street and then turn onto Lake Avenue.

Alderman Osborne in reference to Vista on Valley Street stated that will be covered. You have two stations sitting there.

Mr. Smith replied it's currently covered both inbound and outbound by our Valley/Weston Route.

Alderman Shea stated when we had discussions a few years ago about changing the routes asked were the people riding on the buses consulted or were they sort...I know when reading the report there were a few if any people riding on several routes that you're trying to straighten out and that was a concern on the Aldermen's part when this went into actual adoption a lot of the people who were impacted said well, gee we didn't realize...so has that been a consideration on your part.

Mr. Smith replied yes. One of our concerns is to make sure especially in the more far reaching changes that we're looking forward to on the other route to provide adequate public input on those routes. The short-term improvements would be improvements that do not affect the current schedule in a significant way and do not affect our current riders in a significant way but only make modifications where there is little or no ridership.

Alderman O'Neil stated I want to thank the commissioners and Dave for their hard work in bringing some stability to the Authority and I notice a lot more activity and my guess is ridership is slowing increasing again and I want to commend all of the commissioners that are here this evening and the General Manager for that and we see some new bus shelters up around the City and bringing some life to the bus system, so congratulations.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Baines advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Informational – to be Received and Filed

- B.** Communication from John Brisbin, Library Director, advising that the City Library will be receiving sealed bids for a group of surplus materials from its stacks.
- C.** Copy of a communication from Carol Murray, Commissioner of the State of NH Department of Transportation advising of contemplated awards.
- D.** Communication from Jerry Reese, Manager of Government Affairs of AT&T Broadband advising that the cable operator in our community, MediaOne of New Hampshire, Inc. has changed its name to Comcast of New Hampshire, Inc.
- E.** Communication from Patrick Carey, Director, ElPaso Corporation, submitting a Tennessee Gas Pipeline Facility Map.

Accept Funds and Remand for the Purpose Intended

- F.** Communication from Randy Sherman, Deputy Finance Officer, advising of the receipt of \$614.97 from Hannaford Food and Drug for purchase of supplies for the DARE 98 Project.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- G.** Communication from Deputy City Clerk advising that the Charter Commission has requested a budget of \$20,000 and for such purpose a Resolution has been submitted as follows:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a non-lapsing transfer of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) from Contingency to the Charter Commission.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

- H.** Advising that it has adopted the following mission statement:

“The purpose of the Special Aldermanic Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs is to make Manchester a healthier and safer community by working together to reduce alcohol and other drug problems.”

and noting that it has held discussions with Mr. Greg Townsend of the Elliot Hospital regarding issues and challenges they face as a major provider of health care in the community.

The Committee further notes that it has discussed HB179 regarding raising the age of majority from 17 to 18 years of age which would allow 17 year olds to remain in the juvenile system.

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN O'NEIL, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PINARD, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

Minutes Accepted:

- A. Minutes of meetings held on May 21, 2002 and June 3, 2002.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated on page 34 of the May 21st meeting there was a typographical error where we had Alderman O'Neil recorded in opposition to a motion and it was actually Alderman Lopez and we wanted to note that that correction has been made.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to accept the minutes presented as corrected.

Mayor Baines presented the following nominations. I'd first like to thank Alderman Shea for bringing to my attention the desire of Mr. Beleski to become a member of the Highway Commission and I am nominating him this evening to succeed George Gott, term to expire January 2006 and I think out of respect to his long service to the City I'd like a motion to suspend the rules and confirm the nomination this evening.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to suspend the rules and confirm the nomination of Edward Beleski to succeed George Gott, term to expire in January 2006.

Mayor Baines noted the following two nominations do not require Board approval.

Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority:

M. Mary Mongan to succeed Mark Taylor, term to expire December 31, 2007; and

Amoskeag Small Business Incubator Advisory Board:

Jane Hills to replace Jay Taylor

7. Ratify and confirm the nomination of Peter Favreau to succeed Robert Jobin as a member of the Highway Commission, term to expire January 16, 2006.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to ratify and confirm the nomination of Peter Favreau to succeed Robert Jobin as a member of the Highway Commission, term to expire January 16, 2006.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.** A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a non-lapsing transfer of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) from Contingency to the Charter Commission.”

ought to pass and be enrolled.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept, receive and adopt a report of the Committee on Finance. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 12.** Report(s) of Committee on Lands and Buildings regarding Derryfield Lease and Pearl Street School, if available.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated there are no reports of the Committee on Lands and Buildings as the item has been referred to the Committee on Community Improvement.

- 13.** Communication from Leo Bernier, City Clerk, advising that Frank Guinta has resigned as a State Representative from District 50, and suggesting the Board may request the Secretary of State to have a special election for the purpose of filling the vacancy.

Mayor Baines asked do we have to fill the vacancy.

Clerk Bernier replied it's entirely up to the Board.

Mayor Baines stated it's a \$15,000 tab correct.

Alderman Gatsas stated I don't think we want the City of Manchester to not be represented.

Mayor Baines stated I'm just answering the question that somebody asked.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve a request to the Secretary of State to hold a special election for the purpose of filling the District 50 State Representative seat.

- 14.** Communication from Diane Prew, Information Systems Director, requesting approval for execution of an internet access agreement with Verizon, which contains an indemnification agreement.

Alderman O’Neil moved to approve execution of an internet access agreement with Verizon inclusive of the indemnification agreement, subject to the review and approval of the City Solicitor. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- 15.** Communication from Frank Thomas, Public Works Director, submitting a retirement request for Joseph Bruno.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to accept Mr. Bruno’s retirement request as submitted with regrets.

- 16.** Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a non-lapsing transfer of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) from Contingency to the Charter Commission.”

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only and it was so done.

Alderman O’Neil moved that the Resolution pass and be enrolled. Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

TABLED ITEM

- 17.** Discussion relative to informing Verizon that if an amicable agreement with the City of Manchester regarding payment of bridge repairs is not made Verizon will be notified that they will have to remove their cables from the bridge.
(Tabled 10/15/02)

This item remained tabled as there was nothing new to report at this time.

18. NEW BUSINESS

A report of the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance was presented advising that it has approved Ordinance amendment:

“Amending Section 33.011 (Retired Employees; Policy on Rehiring) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

and recommending same be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept, received and adopt the first report of the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

A second report of the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance was presented advising that it has reviewed Ordinance amendment:

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Web Services Administrator) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

and recommends that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen suspend the rules and place this Ordinance on its final reading by title only without referral to the Committees on Bills on Second Reading and Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration, and adopt same on January 7, 2003.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept, receive and adopt the second report of the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked is this a new position that's being created?

Ms. Lamberton replied it's not a new position. The position exists. It's a reclassification of a current position.

Alderman Gatsas asked what is the classification of the current position.

Ms. Lamberton replied I believe it's a Computer Operator I.

Alderman Gatsas asked it's what grade?

Ms. Lamberton replied it's a labor grade 12, I believe.

Alderman Gatsas stated and this is a labor grade 21.

Ms. Lamberton replied that is correct.

Alderman Gatsas asked what is the difference in...

Mayor Baines requested Diane Prew approach the microphone.

Ms. Prew stated the question is the difference in salary.

Alderman Gatsas stated it's the same person that is at a labor grade 12...

Ms. Prew stated it's the same position.

Alderman Gatsas asked what is the pay for a labor grade 12?

Ms. Prew replied labor grade 12 is \$24,126 to \$34,398.00.

Alderman Gatsas asked a labor grade 21 is what?

Ms. Prew replied a labor grade 21 is \$44,354 to \$63,239.

Alderman Gatsas stated the person that is currently in the labor grade 12 is getting paid how much?

Ms. Prew replied it's a vacant position at this moment. It's a vacant position within the department that we have requested be reclassified into a Web Services Administrator.

Alderman Gatsas stated increase the salary by \$23,000.

Ms. Prew stated the responsibilities of the two positions are completely different. We no longer have need for a Computer Operator I...those responsibilities we have been able to automate them, we have a need for support now for the City's Web Site and we've asked for reclassification.

Alderman Gatsas asked do we have anybody else now doing the Web Site now.

Ms. Prew replied the responsibilities are being shared by three people on my staff. It was a new project that had been going on for the past year, those people now have to move onto a new project which is beginning and we need someone to focus on the Web Site.

Mayor Baines asked are there members of the committee that want to talk about this who were at the meeting this evening.

Alderman Lopez stated I think this was a major priority that you had indicated many times about getting a Web Site and if you haven't been to the Web Site it is a pretty impressive thing for the City of Manchester. I think the responsibilities that have been reviewed by the Human Resources Director along with Diane that the responsibility indicated a Grade 21 and in her presenting it to the Committee, so the Committee did unanimously recommend this because it is a major priority for the City of Manchester.

Alderman DeVries stated actually I was going to add to that that it is a funded position as well, the funds are currently available within the budget to pay for that.

Alderman Garrity stated so what you stated is that this is funded at a Grade 21 in this year's budget, is that correct?

Ms. Prew stated funds are available in this year's budget for the position.

Alderman Garrity asked I couldn't hear...what did you say the Grade 21 salary was again?

Ms. Prew reiterated it starts at \$44,354 to \$63,239.

Mayor Baines asked what is the range of the other classification?

Ms. Prew replied the other classification a Grade 12 is \$24,126 to \$34,398.

Alderman Gatsas asked was there any attempt to fill the Web Site Analyst at \$24,000?

Ms. Prew replied no. It's totally out of the range that we are looking with for the kind of skills, we're not going to find someone at \$24,000.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess the skills for a Web Site Manager at an attempt to hire somebody at \$24,000 would be no different than the skills we're looking at for an Assessor at \$44,000 and telling them to put a ceiling on that one.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to accept the second report of the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance. The motion carried with Aldermen Garrity, Guinta, Garrity and Forest.

Alderman Lopez moved to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance listed in the second report of the Committee on Human Resources on its final reading by title only at this time without referral to the Committees on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration or Bills on Second Reading. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess I'm a little amazed that in the financial picture we're in in the City that all of a sudden departments come up and there's an additional \$24,000 floating around in the budget that has ample funds to pay for this new person to come on. Is there any way we can get an idea of what the departments have for excess cash in their line item for wages. It's just amazes me that there's \$24,000 in a line item and we're talking about laying off people and not having funds in other departments to fund employees...

Mayor Baines interjected, Diane, could you please come back up here...in terms of the way you budgeted was the understanding that you were looking for a reclassification when you put your budget together, could you just explain a little bit about your budget?

Ms. Prew stated the Web Administrator is a position we have been working on for a long time. We have had the operator position vacant for some time, we have the funds available because that position was vacant and we were able to automate the responsibilities of that position and we are looking into next year as to what we can do in terms of the budget, this is a very important area for us. The City's Web site is a new tool. To date, we have had 60,000 people come to visit the Web Site, we have new software that's going to be installed that's going to allow people to get their tax information which will minimize calls to the Tax Office, we have new calendar functions. We're looking at being able to take payments on the Web Site...this is a tool that the City is looking for to make itself more efficient and it needs support to go forward. If there isn't someone...and it's something that has to be done on a daily basis. We have monthly meetings with all the department Web Site people to keep the momentum going, to discuss issues, to keep the information current. This is not something that's put out there on a one-time basis and then you can leave it alone. It's something that has activity on it every single day.

Mayor Baines stated the other facet of it is that the next phase is to move it to the ability of the taxpayers to actually conduct their transactions on the web...pay their taxes, do all these things which are actually going to increase some efficiency and actually may actually speed up the cash flow into City government, would that be an accurate statement, Randy, from a cash flow prospective that would have a positive impact on the finances of the City.

Mr. Sherman replied it definitely would. As a matter of fact we had a presentation not more than a couple of weeks ago by a vendor who was very interested in helping the City promote that type of behavior.

Ms. Prew stated I would also add that the Manchester Development Corporation thought this was important enough that they provided us the funding to bring the Web Site to where it is today.

Mayor Baines stated I remember Gary Long who chaired it kept saying if we're going to invest all this money if you don't bring a Web Master on you're basically wasting your money...from his experience in the private sector as well.

Alderman Osborne asked how much would you say you could save in a year's time by this position as to the other or could you? How much money would it help the City by having this position?

Ms. Prew replied this is something that is going to generate efficiencies over a period of time. It's not something from today to tomorrow. Now, when we...I'll give you an example...the City of Concord had put into place the ability for citizens to look at their tax bills and tax information over the internet and they found that the number of calls that came into the Tax Office for tax information was cut by about 48%, so there are significant efficiencies. I don't have figures for that, no.

Alderman Gatsas stated it's funny you should bring up the City of Concord. How many people do we have right now working in our IT Department?

Ms. Prew replied right now we have 18.

Alderman Gatsas stated the City of Concord has one.

Ms. Prew stated the City of Concord is structured differently than the City of Manchester, we're more centralized. You will find people doing data processing functions spread through the City of Concord.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its final reading by title only. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Garrity and Forest duly recorded in opposition.

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Web Services Administrator) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

On motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted that the Ordinance be read by title only, and it was so done.

This Ordinance having had its final reading by title only, Alderman DeVries moved on passing same to be Ordained. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Garrity and Forest duly recorded in opposition.

Communication from the City Clerk requesting that the Board schedule a public hearing regarding the proposed Granite Street Widening Project being conducted in combination with the Highway and State such hearing to be held on Monday, February 10, 2003 at 6:00 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers.

Alderman Osborne moved to order to public hearing the proposed Granite Street Widening Project to be held on Monday, February 10, 2003 at 6:00 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers.

Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Baines stated for clarification purposes the next meeting of the Board will be held on its regular date and time, we didn't realize when we voted the change it was going to be held on the Martin Luther King Day holiday and city offices will be closed. Alderman O'Neil will preside at that meeting.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked, on behalf of Mr. Bernier, if \$15,000 could be set aside in contingency, not transferred at this time, but set aside in the event the Clerk's Office needs it for that Special Election. At the end of the year if we run short we would be looking to get reimbursed on it.

Alderman Forest moved to set aside \$15,000 out of contingency as requested by Deputy Clerk Johnson. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Alderman DeVries stated I have distributed a communication to everybody that I received from Bill Cass who is the new Chief Project Manager for the I-93 Widening Project. This project is going to put into mitigation a corridor of lands that will be going from the I-93 down to South Mammoth Road. There is one parcel of land that everybody is familiar with that is currently potentially being developed...a portion of the lands have been developed and there's been an agreement made between the Crystal Lake Preservation Association to hold off the development until January 31st of this year. Unfortunately, the expedited I-93 funding will not be received in time for that. I've been in communications both with the DOT, the Mayor and the developer and we have on-going conversations. What I'd like to do at this point in time is to refer this item to the CIP Committee...I understand there's a meeting next week...to enter the potential shortfall and funding that we might have, just so that we can deal with that at the CIP level. You have the letter in front of you coming from DOT so you can have a chance to read through that before this comes back to you at the next Board meeting.

Mayor Baines stated I appreciate that and I hope we can help you out with this project that you've worked really hard on.

Alderman DeVries stated we're on the eleventh hour now and we don't want to lose it.

Alderman Osborne duly seconded the motion to refer Mr. Cass's communication to the Committee on Community Improvement. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Forest stated I do have a question about referring it to committee. I'm not opposed to it going to committee. I'm just commenting, Alderman DeVries, about how is this going to affect Hackett Hill Road, is it going to take away from the cedar swamps up there if we vote to extend this money to Crystal Lake?

Alderman DeVries replied this money is a little bit separate from the I-93 mitigation money. The priority of mitigation is something that they set. We're looking for some stop gap funding to make up the difference between what we have already appropriated and is available for funding and what might be needed, to be reimbursed.

Alderman Forest stated we could discuss this at CIP.

Alderman Smith stated, Frank, there's only 73 more days until spring.

Alderman Gatsas stated thank you that was a good lead in for me, Alderman Smith, seeing that Frank is here and we're approving wage increases not knowing where our snow removal budget is going to be maybe Frank can identify how close we are to a number that we don't want to be put into the same position as Welfare was a year ago.

Mr. Thomas stated presently we've gone through about 52% of our snow budget. Our snow budget is \$1.13 million basically made up of overtime and salt and right now we have a balance, an approximate balance of \$607,000. Now, we're in a lot better shape than a lot of municipalities because I think the Board of Mayor and Aldermen have held off in taking the easy way out and reducing snow budgets when we've had mild years. The snow budget we have this year is approximately the same as last year so the level of snow removal funds has

remained fairly constant. Other municipalities in the mild years have reduced them. Having said that, we are just entering what I would classify as the worst snow weather event related month, the month of January...the winter pattern we've had over the last couple of weeks is typical of the type of winter pattern you see in January where you have one storm rolling in after another. If that pattern does continue, quite frankly, we may be short in the snow related line items, I may be coming back to you seeking assistance. Obviously, we will do everything in our power to avoid that. But, if you remember correctly this year's operating budget I don't have that \$300,000 that we've had in the past for resurfacing which was my little insurance fund, I always held off on that money until the spring. But, again, I think we're in a lot better shape and we still have a lot of winter to go.

Alderman Gatsas stated so 52% of the budget...would you say that since...does that include the last storm that we just had?

Mr. Thomas replied yes it does.

Alderman Gatsas stated so say we're 38 days say from December 1st to January 7th, 52% of your budget has been used...

Mr. Thomas stated 52% is remaining, about 48% has been used.

Alderman Gatsas stated with 48% used and 52% remaining and we have somewhat if you go to just March 31st you have about 80 days. So, you think you can stretch the next 52% three times the length?

Mr. Thomas replied if God's willing.

Alderman Gatsas stated well, Frank, if you've been talking to him certainly we'll listen to everything else you have to say in here.

Mayor Baines stated Bills on Second Reading is actually going to be adopting an ordinance about no more snowstorms.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk